Pakistani support to Kashmiri Liberation Movement

3028. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan that Kashmir was the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and that Pakistan would continue her support to the cause of liberation movement of the Kashmiri people;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whethr the Pakistan's position fits in the scheme of India's programme and policy in relation to Kashmir; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to resolve the Indo-Pak differences on the Kashmir issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Propagandist statements on the part of Pakistan Prime Minister cannot alter the fact that the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan.

Over the past two decades, Pakistan has been engaged in sponsoring cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and disguising its territorial ambitions by speaking about so called "liberation struggle in J&K". It is widely acknowledged today that there can be no justification for terrorism.

Government is firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

(c) and (d) India is willing to discuss all outstanding issues with Pakistan through peaceful, bilateral dialogue. However, for bilateral dialogue to take place, Pakistan must completely end its support and sponsorship of cross-border infiltration and terrorism, so as to create a climate conducive to substantive dialogue.